FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINICS RECEIVE \$42 MILLION

SACRAMENTO -- The California Health Facilities Financing Authority (CHFFA) Monday approved \$42 million in grants to community health clinics throughout California. The award recipients were finalized at the Authority's meeting in Sacramento, according to CHFFA chairman, State Treasurer Philip Angelides.

Grants in amounts up to \$250,000 per clinic were made to 225 primary care clinics located as far north as Arcata and as far south as Calexico. The funds will be used for a variety of capital projects, including new construction and renovation of clinic facilities, dental equipment, mammogram and sonogram machines, exam tables, computer systems and more.

"California's network of community care clinics offer a crucial lifeline to millions of uninsured and under-insured families. The infusion of funds into this indispensable segment of our health care delivery system is much needed and well-deserved. Clinics will use the funds effectively to expand the number of people they serve, and the types of medical services available," Angelides said.

Assemblymember Gil Cedillo, author of the legislation that created the clinic grant program said, "I'm very pleased to see the program progressing with the distribution of these much-needed grants. California's community clinics are in desperate need of medical equipment and assistance in their expansion efforts. This funding will allow clinics to continue to meet the health care needs of the uninsured and working poor in our state."

Community clinics are the safety net providers of health care services such as prenatal care, childhood immunizations, dental care, preventive screenings and routine illness treatment to persons who otherwise have little or no access to health care. The clinic grant program was enacted last year in legislation called the Cedillo-Alarcón Community Clinic Investment Act of 2000 (AB 2875, Chapter 99). CHFFA was charged with evaluating project proposals submitted by individual clinics, and selecting grant recipients.

The funds will be disbursed to clinics beginning in September.

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